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Wayne Fitzgerrell

STATE RECREATION AREA

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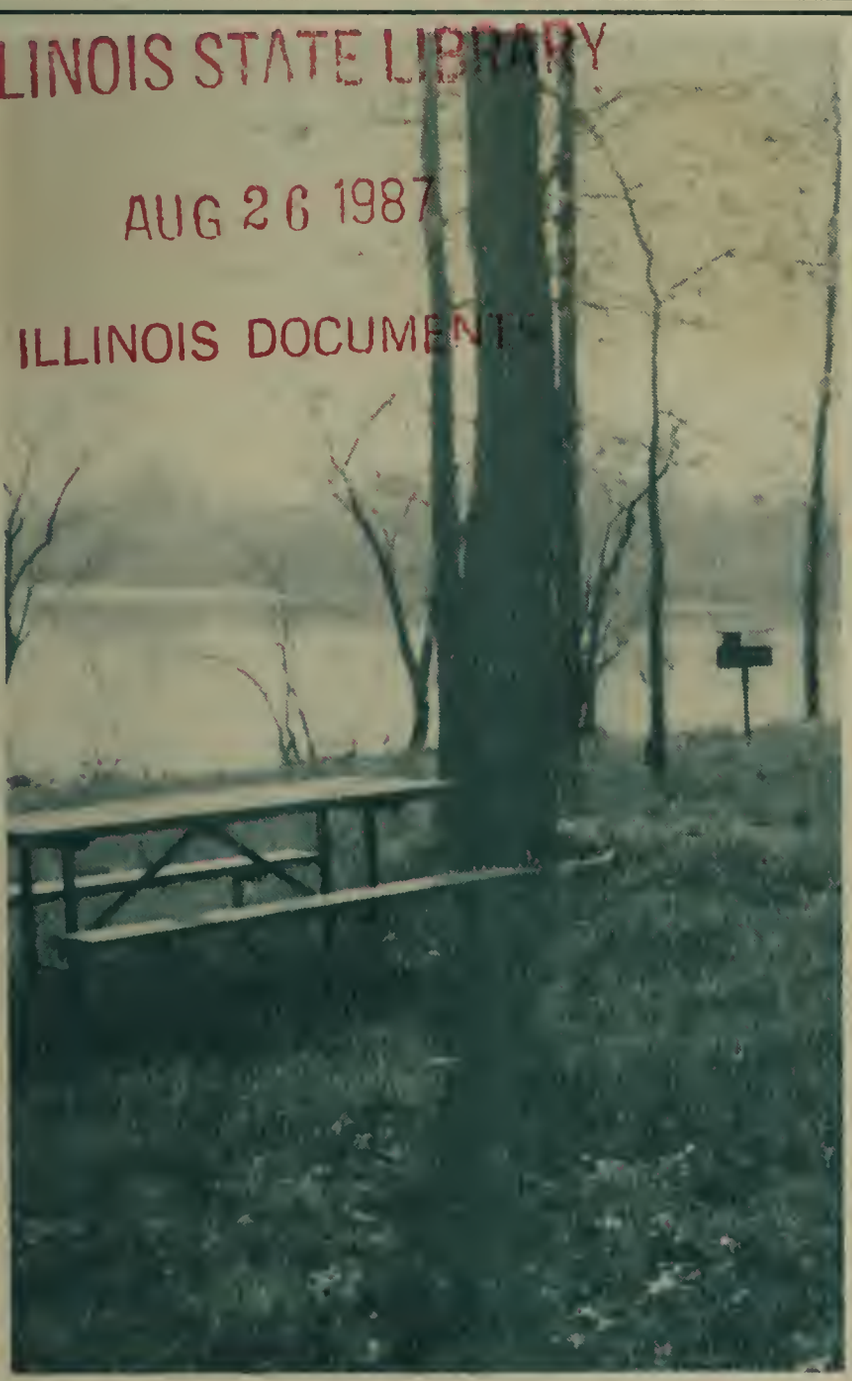

CONSERVATION

THE AREA

Wayne Fitzgerrell State Recreation Area, located on the shores of Rend Lake, is six miles north of Benton, Illinois, just west of Interstate 57 and on either side of State Highway 154. Wayne Fitzgerrell is a multiple-use area offering facilities and thus opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreation activities. Because of its location on Rend Lake, excellent opportunities are available for water-oriented activities such as fishing, boating, water skiing, and swimming. Facilities are also available for Class A and primitive camping and picnicking.

In addition to these activities, Wayne Fitzgerrell State Recreation Area has received national recognition for its quality dog field trial grounds and facilities. The site is host to both regional and national championship trials. Portions of the site are utilized for the controlled hunting of pheasants, an annual event that is gaining in popularity. Occasionally, when populations permit, a special hunting season is held for other upland game or deer. Several boat launching ramps, a hiking trail, and a bridle trail plus other equestrian facilities also are available for public use.

NATURAL FEATURES

The present acreage managed by the Department of Conservation totals 3,300 acres. Farming was the dominant land use of the site prior to acquisition; therefore, the area contains many fence rows, abandoned crop fields, and cleared farmsteads which are interspersed among small oak-hickory woodlands. Some 75 percent of the Wayne Fitzgerrell State Recreation Area is bounded by Rend Lake shoreline. This area has excellent populations of wildlife species common to southern Illinois. Wayne Fitzgerrell is somewhat unique in that it maintains a population of ringneck pheasants. Approximately one-third of the site's land acreage is utilized for hunting and field trials, while the remaining acreage is devoted to more intensive recreation activities.

UPCOMING RECREATION FACILITIES

Funding has been received for the development of a marina complex which is to include a restaurant, lodging units, convenience store, and a swimming beach along with boat rentals and other facilities associated with a full service marina. In addition, construction of two seasonal shower buildings serving the users of the Class A campground are also to be underway during the 1987-1988 recreation season.

FACILITIES

Boating — Several boat launching ramps and access areas are available for fishing, boating, and other water sports.

Picnicking — Within Wayne Fitzgerrell there are three major areas and several smaller areas that are utilized for picnicking. Shelters, tables, fire places, playground equipment, and other support facilities are provided at these areas. Reservations are accepted at no charge for three of the four shelters located within this site.

Camping — In addition to a primitive campground area, Wayne Fitzgerrell offers 245 trailer sites with electricity and sanitary facilities. All campers must register upon arrival with site personnel. The fee for Class A camping is $6 per night and primitive camping is $2. Portions of the Class A campground are available by reservation and facilities are provided for group camping.

Trails — A nine-mile bridle trail encircles the wildlife field trial area. From September 15 to April 15, the bridle trail is closed during designated field trials and hunting season; however, equestrians may accompany field trial participants. A one-mile hiking trail also is maintained for public use at Wayne Fitzgerrell.

Please — Help keep this recreation area clean and beautiful for all to enjoy. Put all litter in the nearest trash can and keep vehicles on roadways.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the site superintendent has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodges, cabins, and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, and Giant City; White Pines Forest and Cave-In-Rock have cabins and dining rooms only; and Black Hawk has dining rooms only. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

Most state sites are open year around, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Wayne Fitzgerrell State Recreation Area, P.O. Box 68, Rural Route 4, Benton, IL 62812, phone (618) 629-2320, or Site Superintendent, Route #1, Whittington, IL 62897, phone (618) 629-2541. For information on other Illinois recreational areas, write the Department of Conservation, Division of Land Management, 524 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62706.

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Rend Lake

Wayne Fitzgerrell State Recreation Area

Hunter Access Road

Primitive Campground

Picnic Area

Bridle Trail

Boat Ramp

Bay Area

Hickmans Point

Class A Campground

Lake View

Shower Building

Trailer Dump Station

Lookout Point

Shady Rest

Picnic Area

WILDLIFE FIELD TRIAL AREA

Hunter Access Road

Hiking Trail

Club House

Park Office & Service Complex

Hunter Check Station

Stable

Bridle Path (Entrance)

To Sesser

Rt. 154

To I-57

Boat Launch

Picnic Area

0 - Shelter Locations

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